

Reminiscences of my visit to the Russian Customs Academy **In 2014**



By

Dr. G. Shreekumar Menon Ph.D.(Narcotics)

Former Director General

**National Academy of Customs, Indirect Taxes & Narcotics
India.**

When I was working as the Director General of the National Academy of Customs, Indirect Taxes & Narcotics, I got an opportunity to pay an official visit to the famous Russian Customs Academy, located near Moscow, at Lubertsy, to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The delegation from India comprised of five members, two officials including myself and three officer trainees. The visit was fixed in February 2014.

For the Visa formalities at New Delhi, I got to interact with Mr. Dmitry G, Subochev, Third Secretary of the Embassy of the Russian Federation and Deputy Representative of the Federal Customs Service in India, and Mr. Andrey V Galkin, Counsellor of the Embassy of the Russian Federation, Representative of the Federal Customs Service in India. Both of them were very friendly and helpful and the Visa formalities of the entire group was finalized quickly.

We left New Delhi for Moscow by Aeroflot and reached Sheremetyevo Alexander S. Pushkin International Airport, around late evening, where we were warmly welcomed by Ms. Elena Gayko, Specialist, International Cooperation Department. From the airport we proceeded to Lubertsy.



We were ushered into the spacious rooms of the Customs Academy. Though it had become late in the night, the beautiful and majestic city of Moscow was bright as daylight. It was amazing to see bright daylight at night, never before had I seen such a phenomenon.

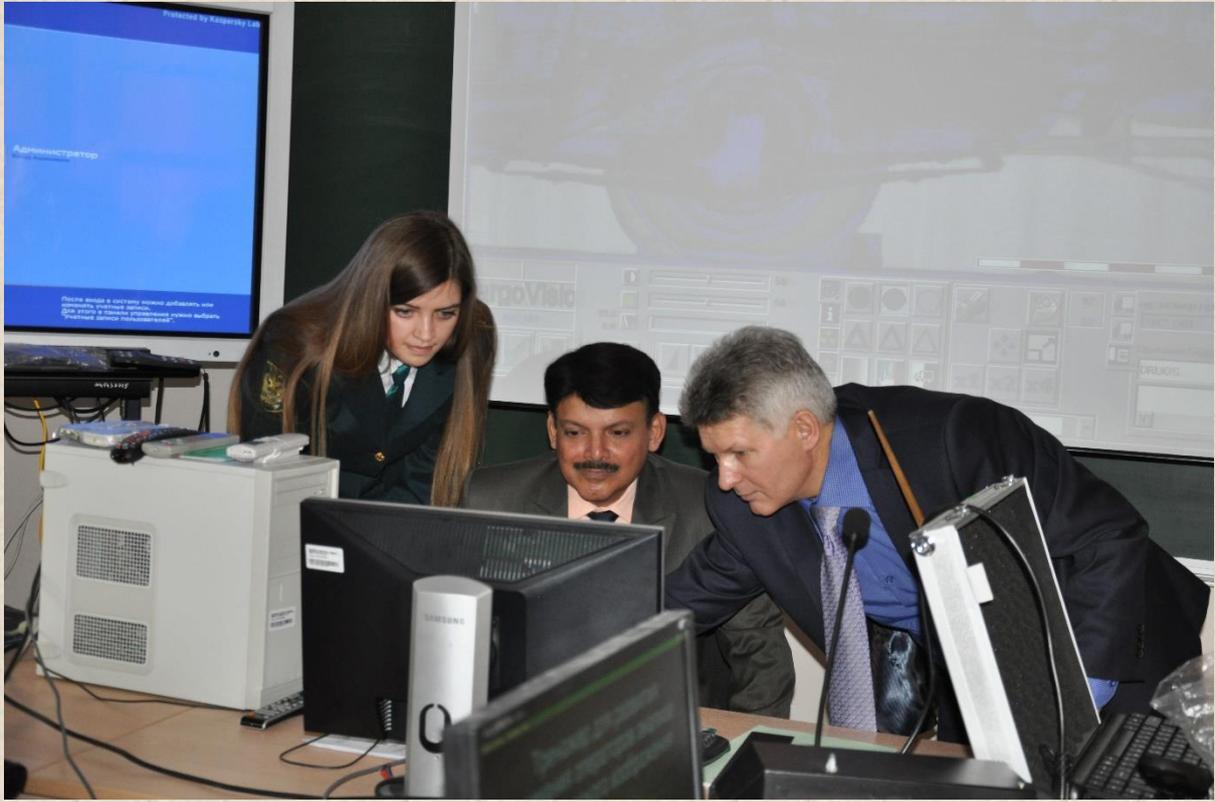
Next day I got the privilege to get introduced to Ms. Elena Chernyavskaya, Head of Education and Training Department and Mr. Sergey Filippenko, Additional Director International Relations, a very affable and popular gentleman. The next few days were hectic and thrilling. We got to meet many esteemed faculty members, and students in smart uniforms.





I had the unique privilege of delivering a lecture and PowerPoint presentation on the subject of Narco-terrorism to the students.







Evenings, we got to see great cultural presentations by the students, specially arranged by Ms. Elena Gayko. We got to see fabulous folk dances, group dances and other wonderful programs.







More excitement came when we proceeded to St. Petersburg by a high speed train. The historic city of St. Petersburg left us spell bound.

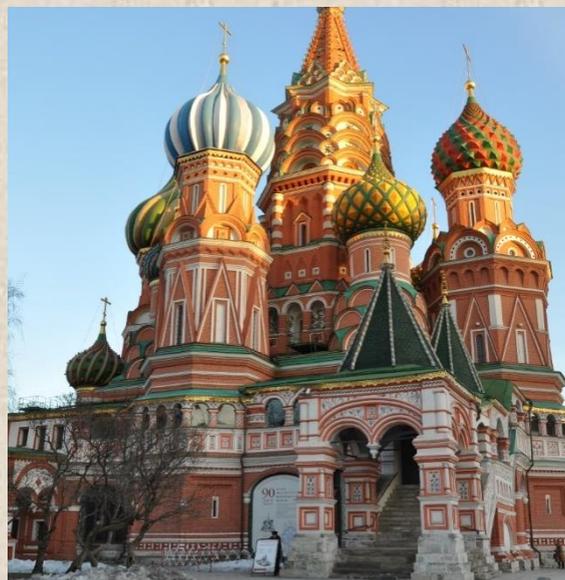


At the V.B. Bobkov Saint-Petersburg branch of the Academy we got to meet Ms. Yulia Pavlovna Ten, Professor, Department of Management and her efficient team of officers.

On our return to Moscow, the best of the programs was when Ms. Elena Gayko took us to see the Kremlin, Red square and the magnificent churches.



Moscow is a city brimming with extraordinary cathedrals and religious buildings. It was a treat for the eyes to see unique architectural styles, vibrant colors and incredible interiors in the beautiful churches. From the Gothic pinnacles of cathedrals to colorful patterned domes, we were dazzled by such wondrous sights. The Saint Basil's Cathedral is truly a wonder of the world.



We concluded our trip by successfully signing a Memorandum of Understanding between the two prestigious Academies.



It was a very memorable and unforgettable event for all of us in our lives. The genuine warmth and affection of the students, staff and faculty will always be remembered with gratitude. Long live Indo-Russian friendship and co-operation.